



Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

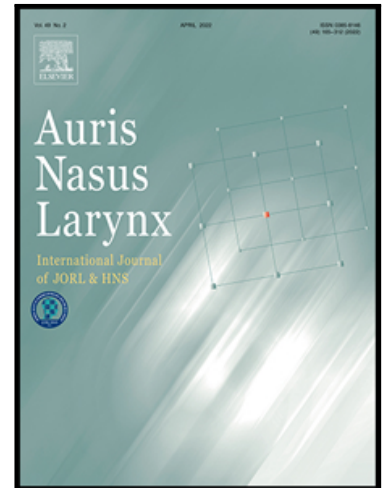
Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.

Journal Pre-proof

Letter to the editor: COVID-19 findings revealed via otolaryngological examination: Findings of a Japan Otorhinolaryngologist Association questionnaire

Yurika Kimura

PII: S0385-8146(23)00102-5
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anl.2023.06.002>
Reference: ANL 3270



To appear in: *Auris Nasus Larynx*

Received date: 30 May 2023

Accepted date: 1 June 2023

Please cite this article as: Yurika Kimura , Letter to the editor: COVID-19 findings revealed via otolaryngological examination: Findings of a Japan Otorhinolaryngologist Association questionnaire, *Auris Nasus Larynx* (2023), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anl.2023.06.002>

This is a PDF file of an article that has undergone enhancements after acceptance, such as the addition of a cover page and metadata, and formatting for readability, but it is not yet the definitive version of record. This version will undergo additional copyediting, typesetting and review before it is published in its final form, but we are providing this version to give early visibility of the article. Please note that, during the production process, errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

© 2023 Japanese Society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Inc. Published by Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

Letter to Editor

Letter to the editor: COVID-19 findings revealed via otolaryngological examination:

Findings of a Japan Otorhinolaryngologist Association questionnaire

Yurika Kimura

Department of Otolaryngology,

Tokyo Metropolitan Ebara Hospital, Tokyo, Japan

To the Editor:

We conducted a survey on patients diagnosed with COVID-19 in December 2020.

However, since the emergence of the omicron (B.1.1.529) variant in early 2022,

COVID-19 is mainly characterized by upper respiratory tract inflammatory symptoms

rather than those of the lower respiratory tract. There are also high rates of redness and

edema of the pharyngolaryngeal mucosa, especially lateral bands, which can be

observed through visual examination of the oral cavity and pharyngolarynx. In addition,

COVID-19 caused by the omicron variant is characterized by the formation of a sticky,

mottled white coat in the laryngeal vestibule, and erythema and swelling extending

below the glottis and into the trachea [1]. Unfortunately, Japan did not play a substantial

role in the evidence established during the COVID-19 epidemic. In Western countries,

family physicians and general practitioners are often the first to diagnose COVID-19 in

the framework of the healthcare system, whereas in Japan, patients choose to see an otolaryngologist, and as otolaryngologists, we have witnessed situations where a single viral variant can cause dramatic changes locally in a short period. In the future, otolaryngologists in Japan are expected to actively generate and disseminate evidence for diagnosis and treatment, utilizing their experience as front-line specialists in upper airway infections.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The author has no competing interests to disclose.

References

- [1] Kimura Y, Hirabayashi E, Yano M, Fujitani S, Shioiri S. COVID-19 Omicron variant-induced laryngitis. *Auris Nasus Larynx* 2022;23:S0385-8146(22)00200-0.